



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God's promises might take time.

THE BIBLE

Joseph's Dreams: Genesis 37:1-28
(Psalm 138:4-8)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **MUSIC** | "Haven't Seen It Yet"
- **ACTIVITY** | Beach Bowling
- **ACTIVITY** | Catch the Clownfish
- **POLL** | Do You Remember Your Dreams?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 37:1-28
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God's promises might take time.
- **VIDEO** | Promise, Episode 4
- **QUESTION** | What Were Joseph's Dreams?
- **VIDEO** | Time to Grow
- **SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 138:4-8
- **VIDEO** | "I've Got a Dream"
- **ACTIVITY** | Dream Board
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Around the Clock
- **PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - Joseph's dreams were about stalks of grain and about the sun, moon, and stars. What did everyone think that meant?
 - How did Joseph's brothers feel about the dreams?
 - What did Joseph's brothers do?
 - Read Psalm 136:7. Do you sometimes have trouble in your life? Do you feel God can support you when you have trouble?
 - If you were Joseph, what do you think you might have done if you were sold to the traders and taken to Egypt?
 - How do you think we can tell if our dreams for the future are our dreams or God's plans?
 - What do we need to remember when things do not seem to be going well?
- **ACTIVITY** | Dream Journal
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



BY MIKE SHELEY

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.

MUSIC | "Haven't Seen It Yet"

Send the video link to "[Haven't Seen It Yet](#)." to preteens beforehand and have them practice this so they can show the rest of the group or teach it step-by-step. If you have a large group, have some of them come up with their own choreography to the song, "[The Waiting](#)" and present it to the group.

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 37:1-28

Hand everyone a sheet of paper. Ask them to fold it in half so that when it is unfolded, they have a sheet with two even sides. After you read the passage, have them quickly sketch images for each of the two dreams on the two sections of the paper.

Encourage them to go quickly and not to worry too much about detail. This will be a tool to help them learn today and remember the rest of this week.

THE BIG IDEA | God's promises are for now and for later.

Keep giving different preteens the chance to collaborate on making the Big Idea poster.

Give all these supplies to your preteens a week ahead of time and have them create your Big Idea banner. To help them out, share [this link](#) with them on ideas for doing chalk art lettering. Remind them that they don't have to be perfect. The goal is to create a visual that helps everyone see and remember the Big Idea for this week!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 138:4-8

Have a preteen use their device or borrow yours to record these acted out versions of the verses. Then, get them to someone who can store them as private videos on YouTube or Vimeo. Send those private links out to the parents in your ministry. Encourage them to ask their preteen any questions they have about the videos. It's like a take-home version of show-and-tell!

Be sure to keep these videos private and make sure parents know that only those who have kids in the class were invited to view the videos.

BONUS: If this is something you would like to do on a regular basis, you make it a bit easier with [Cluster](#), an app that many schools are using to help teachers privately share pics and video from their day with parents.

ACTIVITY | Dream Board

This one will take a little planning and some courageous preteens, but it could be a HUGE win for your teaching time and your church.

Connect a few preteens with a class of senior adults in your church. Ask the preteens to take some paper and pencils and interview the seniors. They only have to ask them three questions.

- What is your name?
- Can you tell me something that was a dream for our church that has come true?
- How long did it take for that idea or dream to come true?

Be sure to thank the senior adults for their time.

When you create this dream board, have each preteen share briefly what they learned from their interview to help connect preteens to the larger life and history of their church!



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



BY KIM DORPENYO

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.

MUSIC | "Haven't Seen It Yet"

Use simple, repetitive actions for kids with special needs. If they cannot do the actions, have them jump up and down. Movement always helps memory and senses. Have noise-cancelling headphones available for kids sensitive to loud sounds. For kids using wheelchairs, have someone "dance" them during fast songs and hold up their hands during slow ones.

ACTIVITY | Beach Bowling

Provide noise-cancelling headphones if needed, and allow kids to be closer to the pins.

ACTIVITY | Catch the Clownfish

Provide noise-cancelling headphones if needed, and allow kids to be closer to the hoops.

POLL | Do you remember your dreams?

For kids using a wheelchair, have them give a thumbs up or high hands for yes and thumbs down or low arms for no.

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 37:1-28

Many friends are visual learners. Provide a print-out of pictures for them to follow, or provide the coloring page in your printables folder for them to color while you tell the story. For this week, you could print extra copies of the photos you are using and have them follow along and make their own dream board.

THE BIG IDEA | God's promises might take time.

Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea.

- God's (*point up*)
- promises (*pinky to pinky - like a pinky promise*)
- might (*shrug shoulders*)
- take time (*point to wrist*)

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 138:4-8

Give friends specific motions to do, preferably with a buddy. If a large group is intimidating, have them stay in their small groups while you walk around and observe.

ACTIVITY | Dream Board

Provide magazine pictures or stickers friends can choose from to paste onto the dream board.



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God's promises might take time.

THE BIBLE

Joseph's Dreams: Genesis 37:1-28
(Psalm 138:4-8)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | "Haven't Seen It Yet"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sing and follow the choreography to the song, "[Haven't Seen It Yet](#)."
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Send this link to preteens beforehand and have them practice this so they can show the rest of the group or teach it step-by-step. If you have a large group, have some of them come up with their own choreography to the song, "[The Waiting](#)" and present it to the group.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use simple, repetitive actions or have them jump up and down. Have noise-cancelling headphones available for kids sensitive to loud sounds. For kids using wheelchairs, have someone "dance" with them!
- Today we are going to talk about God's timing and how it's different from our timing. We want God to do things for us lightning fast, but only God sees the full picture. Like the song says, "All His promises are just up ahead, maybe you just haven't seen it, just haven't seen it yet."

ACTIVITY | Beach Bowling

- Welcome back to our island paradise! Before we learn about today's story let's play a couple of beach games.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up eleven (for Joseph's brothers) empty soda bottles and have kids take turns rolling a beach ball to try to knock them down.

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide noise-cancelling headphones if needed, and allow kids to be closer to the pin.

ACTIVITY | Catch the Clownfish

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Wrap some tulle around three hula hoops to make it look like coral. Place the hoops on the floor. Line the kids up about 6-10 feet away from the hoops and challenge them to toss the [bean bags fish](#) into the center of the hoops.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide noise-cancelling headphones if needed, and allow kids to be closer to the hoops.

POLL | Do you remember your dreams?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For each of these questions, have the kids sit if their answer is no and stand if their answer is yes.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids using a wheelchair, have them give a thumbs up or high hands for yes and thumbs down or low arms for no.
- Everyone dreams at night, but we don't always remember that. From the dreams you do remember. . .
- **Have you ever had a dream that you were falling?**
- **Have you ever had a dream that something was chasing you?**
- **Have you ever had a dream that you were flying?**
- **Have you ever had a dream about yourself in the future?**
- Today we will learn about Joseph who had dreams about what would happen in the future. In his case, those dreams would actually come true, but not right away.

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

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 37:1-28

- Sometimes people use a Dream Board to help them plan for their own future. This dream board will show us Joseph's dreams about his future.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get a cork or magnetic board with a piece of paper that says "Dream Board" attached at the center. Put up some magazine clippings or printouts of things you might find on a typical dream board. As you read or summarize Genesis 37:1-28, add the pictures of 11 stalks of grain (verse 7), and pictures of the sun, moon, eleven stars (verse 9).
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Hand everyone a sheet of paper. Ask them to fold it in half so that when it is unfolded, they have a sheet with two even sides. After you read the passage, have them quickly sketch images for each of the two dreams on the two sections of the paper.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For this week, you could print extra copies of the photos you are using and have them follow along and make their own dream board.
- Encourage them to go quickly and not to worry too much about detail. This will be a tool to help them learn today and remember the rest of this week.

- You can't really tell what it means, but it seems like Joseph's dreams meant he was going to become someone very important.
- Well, Joseph's brothers were not super happy about that. They were so angry that through a series of poor decisions, Joseph ended up being traded to some merchants and was headed away from home. . . to Egypt!
- Joseph's dreams don't seem very promising now, do they? The thing is, even though the circumstances looked like the opposite, God was looking out for Joseph, just waiting for the perfect moment for those dreams to be made true.

THE BIG IDEA | God's promises might take time.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in large letters on a black-colored poster board, using chalk markers in rainbow or neon colors. Position large tropical leaves in front to cover up the words. You can place pots in front of the poster and put the leaves in the pots, or tape the leaves to the poster. At the appropriate time, remove the leaves one by one to reveal the Big Idea.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Keep giving different preteens the chance to collaborate on making the Big Idea poster.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea. Example: God's (point up) promises (pinky to pinky - like a pinky promise) might (shrug shoulders) take time (point to wrist).
- We don't always know when God's promises will be fulfilled, but we do know that they will be. . . at the right time. We just need to be patient and wait for God, because **God's promises might take time.**

VIDEO | Promise, Episode 4

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

QUESTION | What were Joseph's dreams?

- **What kinds of dreams did Joseph have?**
- **Did they show a good future for him or a bad one?**
- **By the end of this story did Joseph's future seem good or bad? Why?**
- We don't know what the future holds – only God knows. We have to keep trusting in God's promises, even though they might take time.

VIDEO | Time to Grow

- God's promises are awesome, but sometimes they take longer than we'd like. Our Big Idea reminds us that God's promises might take time – like a flower growing from a seed, or unfolding in the sun.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this time lapse [video](#) of a sunflower growing from a seed (show until 1:40). Follow this with having kids either 1) curl up in a ball on the floor and slowly stand up and unfold like blooming flowers, or 2) sketch along with what they see in the video.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 138:4-8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split kids up into 3 groups, and assign them the following parts of the Scripture: verses 4-5, verses 6-7a, and verses 7b-8. Have each group select a narrator to read, and come up with a creative way to “act out” their assigned verses. Ask leaders to help! Bring everyone back to large group and have each group read and present their interpretations.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Record these presentations, upload them to a video share site, and set them up as private links to send to parents as a take-home version of show and tell!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Give friends specific motions to do, preferably with a buddy. If a large group is intimidating, have them stay in their small groups while you walk around and observe.
- Can you imagine Joseph praying this prayer while waiting at the bottom of the cistern his brothers threw him in, or traveling to Egypt with the traders?
- He dreamt and thought he was destined for great things but now he was in the worst situation he could think of! He probably wondered what his future would hold, but he trusted that God would take care of him.
- Joseph remembered that **God’s promises might take time.**

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

VIDEO | “I’ve Got a Dream”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this video [“I’ve Got a Dream.”](#)
- **What are some dreams the characters had in this clip?**
- **What are some of your dreams for the future?**
- We can always pray and ask for God’s plans to be made known to us. God will plant a dream in our hearts about something amazing we might be able to do later on, but we have to be patient. **God’s promises might take time.**

ACTIVITY | Dream Board

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write “Dream Board” across the top of a poster board and post it up front. As kids tell you their dreams for the church, write them on the dream board. Invite kids to draw pictures, too, if you have time.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens interview some of the senior adults in your church and ask them about something they once dreamed for your church, and how long it took for that dream to come true. Then have preteens share what they learned about the history of your church and real life dreams that took time.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide magazine pictures or stickers friends can choose from to paste onto the dream board.
- **What are some of our dreams for our church?**
- There are a lot of good dreams here. Let’s keep this poster to see if God has the same plans for our future. But remember, **God’s promises might take time.**

MEMORY VERSE | Around the Clock

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids stand in a circle. Select one volunteer to stand in the middle. Have them spin around with one arm pointing straight up and the other arm pointing at the kids in the circle (like hands of a clock!). When they stop, the kid they are pointing at has to recite the memory verse. Then that kid gets to come to the center. Repeat as many times as you want!

PRAYER

- God, even when things don't look too promising, You promise to be with us and guide us through it all. Give us big dreams and help us to remember that those dreams may take some time to come true –and that's okay! You know what's best for us, so we will wait for You to show us.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Joseph's dreams were about stalks of grain and about the sun, moon and stars. What did everyone think that meant?**
- **How did Joseph's brothers feel about the dreams?**
- **What did they do about it?**
- **Read Psalm 136:7. Do you sometimes have trouble in your life? Do you feel God can support you when you have trouble?**
- **If you were Joseph, what do you think you might have done if you were sold to the traders and taken to Egypt?**
- **How do you think we can tell if our dreams for the future are our dreams or God's plans?**
- **What do we need to remember when things do not seem to be going well?**

ACTIVITY | Dream Journal

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a small [notebook](#) and have them decorate the cover.
- We never know what our dreams can tell us. Decorate this journal and keep it by your bed. Write down your dreams when you wake up. Bring it next week and share your dreams with us!

MEMORY VERSE | Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.