

WEEK 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

the messengers



THE BIG IDEA

God can deliver everyone.

THE BIBLE

Peter's Vision:
Acts 11:1-18

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Animal Tumble

- Today, we are going to hear another story about Peter. Peter was kind of like a messenger for God, and he delivered the message about Jesus everywhere.
- But first, he got a message from God, and it involved animals! Let's play a game about animals to prepare ourselves for the story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids each grab an edge of a parachute and have them start oscillating it up and down. One by one, toss a stuffed animal toy onto the sheet. See if they can work together to keep all of them on the sheet the entire time.

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Messenger Melodies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme.
 - "Jesus Loves Me Remix" (Kidspring)
 - "We're Not Scared" (Kidspring)

BIG IDEA | God can deliver everyone.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out the Big Idea graphic for this week on cardstock paper for SM. Make enough copies for everyone. Depending on the size of your group, the Special Messenger (SM) can either hand cards out to the kids, or hand stacks of cards to leaders to hand out to the kids.
- **Storyteller:** We usually see the Special Messenger around this time, but I don't see them. Do you?
- **SM:** Special messenger, reporting for delivery!
- **Storyteller:** Perfect timing, what have you got for me today?
- **SM:** (Enters and begins passing out postcards.) This delivery is for everyone! Today, everyone gets a card!

- **Storyteller:** Hey, can I have a card too?
- **Special Messenger:** *(Hands a card to the leader.)* Sure. Here's a card for you.
- **Storyteller:** *(Reads the card out loud.)* **God can deliver everyone.** That's this week's Big Idea! Now everyone say it with me. **God can deliver everyone!**

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create hand motions for the kids to help them memorize the verse. Then have the kids try to do the hand motions on their own while saying the verse aloud.*
- "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, **"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"** And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

BIBLE STORY | Peter's Vision

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use one of the parachutes and stuffed animals from the Animal Toss activity as you tell the story from Acts 11:1–18. Hang the parachute like a hammock between two chairs and nestle the animals inside.*
- Peter was a friend of Jesus. He was at a friend's house resting and praying when he saw a very strange thing.
- He saw something like a large sheet/parachute coming down from heaven. And on the sheet were all kinds of animals! Cows and sheep and pigs and lizards and birds. It was like a whole zoo on the sheet/parachute!
- Peter heard a voice telling him to eat the animals. Peter was confused because there were animals on there he had never eaten before. God's people were not supposed to eat them!
- But the voice told him three times that he can go ahead and eat them. He was told that God had made them clean, so he shouldn't think they were unclean anymore.
 - **Can you imagine being Peter?**
 - It's kind of like this. Let's say your family used to have a rule that said, "No pets." But one day, your parents told you that you can take any of these animals to be your pet. **Which one would you choose?**
- For his entire life, Peter was taught that he had to eat only some kinds of food and that maybe God loved only some people.
- But after knowing Jesus, and especially after this weird dream, Peter learned that wasn't quite right. God loved everyone, and wanted everyone to know about God!

VIDEO | The Messengers, Episode 3

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

ACTIVITY | Who's In?

- God showed Peter the dream about the animals to help him remember that **God can deliver everyone**, not just some people. But sometimes, we forget that God loves everyone and we pick and choose who we like. For example . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask kids who fit certain criteria to stand up while everyone else stays seated. For example, "Everyone who has a sister, stand up!" Or, "Everyone who has a*

pet, stand up!" We suggest you avoid calling out characteristics involving race or physical attributes.

- **TODDLER HACK:** *Call out a kid's name one by one and ask them to stand up (or do a fun movement). When everyone is standing, go around to each kid and say God loves you, [kid's name] until you say everyone's names. Then say, "God loves everyone!"*
- If I only picked people who fit in with the things I called out just now, some of you would be left out each time. But let's try one more.
- **Everyone who is loved by God, stand up!**
- Now, that's more like it! No one is left out by God, and we should make sure of it. **God can deliver everyone!**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for showing us you can deliver everyone. You don't leave anyone out. Teach us how we can be like you and make sure everyone we know feels included and loved by you! Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Dream Animals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Offer the kids some animal crackers on white napkins to mirror what was explained in the story. Ask kids these questions as they nibble:*
- **What is your favorite animal?**
- **If you could be any animal, what would you choose? Why?**
- **Give me your best animal impression!**
- When a truck makes a delivery, it doesn't matter who the person receiving it is. The package is taken to whoever's name and address is on it. The messenger can't just say they don't want to deliver something. Their job is to deliver to everyone on the list.
- **Does God love some people or all people?**
- Today's Big Idea is **God can deliver everyone!** This means that anyone can know God.

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** *Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea as kids color.*

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

